Policy for export of rice to Bangladesh

1446. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any free trade policy for the export of rice to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether West Bengal has been exempted from the purview of this policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Exim Policy provides for export of rice without any price and quantity restrictions. The Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for exports upto 2.0 million tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice from the public stocks. Such exports would also include export of rice to Bangladesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Interim relief to journalists

1447. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed all the formalities about providing interim relief to journalists;

(b) if so, the amount of interim relief proposed to be given to the journalists;

(c) the number of journalists to be benefited; and

(d) by when the wage Board is going to give its final report?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (4) Several orgnisations representing journalists, non-journalists and other newspaper and news agency employees have placed demands for payment of interim relief. The Wage Boards have fixed oral hearings from 22nd to 25th August, 1995 to consider these demands.

Stock of rice in FCI godowns

1448. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a huge stock of rice with Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether Food Corporation of India Wants to sell out the rice at low price;

(c) whether there are no takers for Food Corporation of India rice despite that offer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Apart from the distribution of rice through PDS/RPDS and other welfare schemes, the Fooj} Corporation of India has been authorised to sell rice from its stock in the open market for domestic consumption and also for export, at the rates above the Central Issue Price. During 1995-96 (upto June, 95) a quantity of 7 lakh MTs (P) of rice has already been sold by Food Corporation of India in open sales and for export.

Child labour in Gujarat

1449. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of child labourers in Gujarat engaged in the match and fire- work factories, glass and glass bangle factories, Carpet and Sari embroidery and other hazardous jobs as on the eve of the declaration of the Prime Minister's action plan to abolish child labour from hazardous jobs;